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TTY: (800) 526-5812**INFORMATIONAL NOTICE**

DATE: September 22, 2006

TO: All Enrolled Providers

RE: Disease Management Program – ***Your Healthcare Plus™***
Primary Care Case Management Program – ***Illinois Health Connect***

This year, Illinois became the first state in the nation to provide health insurance to all uninsured children in the state. The new program is called ***All Kids***. ***All Kids*** health insurance provides affordable and comprehensive health insurance to Illinois children, regardless of family income, immigration status or health condition. Effective July 1, 2006, children covered under the Medicaid and KidCare programs became part of the ***All Kids*** program. Providers currently enrolled with HFS need no special enrollment in order to begin seeing patients covered under the ***All Kids*** expansion. You can begin seeing children covered under the new Premium Levels 2 – 8 immediately, in addition to those in ***All Kids*** Assist, Share and Premium. If you have patients that might benefit from this program, please direct them to our Web site at www.allkidscovered.com, or our toll-free number at 1-866-255-5437 or TTY at 1-877-204-1012. In addition to new cards being issued for participants covered under the ***All Kids*** expansion, the department is in the process of revising existing medical cards. In the near future, samples of the identification cards for the ***All Kids*** program will be posted on the ***All Kids*** Web site at <http://www.allkidscovered.com/provider/>. An update to Topic 108 – Identification Cards, of the Chapter 100 handbook is in progress.

Concurrent with the new ***All Kids*** health insurance, effective July 1, 2006, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) implemented two new statewide programs to help manage our beneficiaries' health. These programs are the Disease Management (DM) program, named ***Your Healthcare Plus*** and the Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program, named ***Illinois Health Connect***. This informational notice outlines the key points of each of these programs, and introduces the department's program administrators.

Your Healthcare Plus

Your Healthcare Plus will support HFS providers with the medical management of patients with complex chronic illnesses. HFS has contracted with McKesson Health Solutions to administer the program.

Over the next several weeks, McKesson Health Solutions will be contacting clients eligible for the program and their physicians. Provider and client participation is voluntary. The ***Your Healthcare Plus*** program is:

- Available at no cost to disabled adults with chronic or complex medical conditions, to children and adults with persistent asthma and to high frequency emergency room users.

- Designed to benefit medical providers through the added support of **Your Healthcare Plus** registered nurses, pharmacists, behavioral health specialists and social workers.
- Complementary to any disease and case management program the patient may have in place.

Since **Your Healthcare Plus** is a voluntary program, you are a valuable partner in helping to create a successful program by encouraging your patients to participate.

Additional information on **Your Healthcare Plus** can be found on HFS' Web site at:

<http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/dm/> or by calling McKesson Health Solutions at 1-800-973-6792.

Illinois Health Connect

Through the **Illinois Health Connect** program, most people enrolled in an HFS medical program will be required to establish a medical home through a Primary Care Provider (PCP). This will serve many worthy objectives:

- Ensure that health care is provided in the most appropriate setting, i.e., a physician's office rather than an emergency room;
- Improve access to all levels of care through expansion of the provider network; and
- Enhance the quality of care while helping to stabilize HFS' costs.

The department has contracted with Automated Health Systems (AHS), to administer **Illinois Health Connect**. AHS will be responsible for: introducing the program to currently enrolled physicians; facilitating new enrollments through provider recruitment activities; providing **Illinois Health Connect** program training and ongoing technical support to PCPs; establishing quality improvement initiatives; and retaining a satisfied network of providers. As part of its provider recruitment activities, AHS will also be available to conduct onsite training at physician offices.

Clients eligible for **Illinois Health Connect** (predominantly **All Kids**, Family Care, and adults with disabilities living in the community) will choose a single PCP who will manage their care. The PCP will provide immunizations and other primary and preventive health care services, help avoid unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and make referrals to specialists for additional care or tests as needed.

Under **Illinois Health Connect**, PCPs will receive a care management fee each month for every patient on their PCCM panel as of the first day of that month: \$2.00 for every child, \$3.00 for parents and \$4.00 for adults with disabilities and the non-Medicare elderly. The care management fee is in addition to the regular fee-for-service reimbursement.

The PCP maximum panel size is 1,800 patients per PCP, with consideration given to special circumstances. PCPs will be able to limit their panel size and close their panel to auto-assigned clients, if they so choose. PCPs must provide or arrange for coverage of services, consultation or referral and treatment for medical conditions 24 hours per day 7 days per week [24/7]. In both the voluntary and mandatory phases of **Illinois Health Connect**, clients may change their PCP as often as once a month.

The initial client enrollment in **Illinois Health Connect** will be voluntary and limited to clients who wish to select a participating Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC) or the Cook County Bureau of Health Services (CCBHS) as their PCP. Clients began voluntarily enrolling with these providers in July 2006.

Transition to a statewide mandatory **Illinois Health Connect** program will subsequently be phased in as follows:

Region	Implementation Date
Cook and Collar Counties	December 2006
Northwestern IL	January 2007
Central and Southern IL	March 2007

Please note that HFS will continue to operate a voluntary risk-based managed care program in Cook, Madison, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington Counties. Enrollees in those counties may join an MCO or the **Illinois Health Connect** program.

Auto-assignment of clients to PCPs will begin in the mandatory phase of the program (based first on current provider) and will only occur for those clients who fail to make a choice. Before a region transitions to mandatory status, AHS will conduct extensive outreach and education to providers, eligible clients and the community about the benefits of choosing a PCP and utilizing a medical home. AHS will use multiple avenues, such as, visiting sites used by clients, over the phone contact and informational mailings to achieve a high level of consumer understanding and involvement.

To learn more about the program and for information on how to enroll as a PCP, please call AHS at 1-800-571-8504. Information on **Illinois Health Connect** is also available on HFS' Web site at: <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/managedcare/>

Physicians already enrolled with HFS need only to complete the **Illinois Health Connect** PCP Application. Physicians who are not enrolled with the department must complete the HFS Medical Program Application [HFS 2243] for participation in Illinois Medicaid, in addition to the PCP application. The HFS Medical Program Application can be accessed online at: <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/enrollment/>

Once you have learned more about **Illinois Health Connect**, we hope you will decide to join us as a PCP.

The department appreciates your participation in the **All Kids** program and we look forward to partnering with you in **Your Healthcare Plus** and **Illinois Health Connect** to improve the lives of Illinois' families through healthcare.

Anne Marie Murphy, Ph.D.
Administrator
Division of Medical Programs